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THE HISTORY OF

Angier Avenue Baptist Church

1889-1964

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

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1889 - - - - Seventy-fifth Anniversary - - - - 1964

THE HISTORY OF

Angier Avenue Baptist Church

1889-1964

Durham, North Carolina

Published on the Occasion of
THE HOMECOMING CELEBRATION
June 14, 1964

Organized December 1, 1889

DEDICATION

THIS HISTORY has been prepared for issuance on the occasion of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of Angier Avenue Baptist Church. Here we point with pride to our membership and the work presently being done.

It is impossible to give a complete picture of all of our members. Many have gone to their rich reward, and will long be remembered. To all those who have had a part in our Church History, both those here and those departed, we humbly dedicate this History.

Dear Friends,

An anniversary year is a time to look backward. As we direct our attention to the past 75 years, we see the great foundation laid by the former pastors of this church. This anniversary brings to mind the great debt of gratitude we owe to them. We should honor each member, who throughout the years, planned prayerfully and worked faithfully. A church such as this represents sacrifice and dedication.

As pastor and people we have been together for more than twenty years. During these fruitful and happy years, this church has been loyal in its support of our mission work and of our institutions. All along the way we have been conscious of Divine Guidance as we have built together.

Now we turn our face to the future. The coming years should afford an even greater era of service in Kingdom building. In constructing the new building the future was kept in mind and we now have a church building which will take care of our needs for years to come.

Definition of a church: A gospel church is an organized body of baptized believers equal in rank and privileges, administering its affairs under the headship of Christ, united in the belief of what He has taught, covenanting to do what He has commanded, and cooperating with other like bodies in Kingdom movements. This is the definition of an ideal church. To this end I have endeavored to lead this people.

May the Lord continually bless you and yours as you faithfully serve Him.

Yours sincerely,





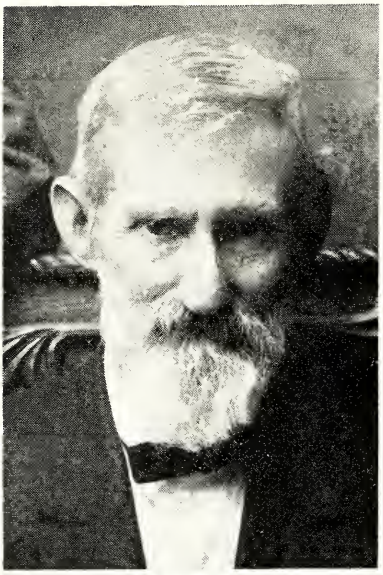


OLD OAK GROVE SCHOOL
Home of First Sunday School and Prayer Meetings



ORIGINAL CHURCH BUILDING

Mr. R. T. Howerton, Senior



APPROXIMATELY THREE YEARS before the organization of East Durham Baptist Church, Mr. Howerton and a group of Christians from the First Baptist Church organized a Sunday School. These people met for these years in a small wooden structure known as the Oak Grove School. Here they held Sunday School and weekly Prayer Meetings.

Following their meeting, one Sunday morning, a conference was called to discuss the possibility of erecting a Church Building for the East Durham community. Closing the meeting with a prayer that God might direct them, the group left the meeting and walked north along what is now Driver Street. When they reached the intersection of Angier Avenue a part of the group went straight ahead, a part went right, while still another part of the group went left. So upon being called together again, following much discussion, it was agreed that the corner of Driver and Angier would be the best and most central location for the building. Thus began the first planning of what later became the Third Baptist Church. It was given this name because, as we understand, it was the third Baptist Church erected in what later became a part of the city of Durham.

—As told to the author by Mr. Howerton's son, Mr. R. T. Howerton, Junior.



EAST DURHAM BAPTIST CHURCH—1900-1924

A History of
Angier Avenue Baptist Church
Seventy-five Years

* * * *

One soweth, another reapeth, but God gives the increase.

* * * *

EVERY GREAT ACHIEVEMENT that has ever been attained had to be built on a solid foundation. Unity, brotherly love, fellowship, and a love for God and His Son, Jesus Christ, and with a desire to advance His Kingdom here on earth is the foundation upon which Angier Avenue Baptist Church stands.

The seed for the growing of Angier Avenue Baptist Church was planted, by God's Spirit, in the mind of the Rev. Columbus Durham, who was then pastor of the First Baptist Church of Durham. At the session of the Mount Zion Baptist Association, meeting with the Cedar Fork Baptist Church of Durham County in 1886, Brother Durham was appointed to write the report to the Association on Missions. In this report, one phase of the report was as follows: "Durham (reporting from other mission fields of the Association) in the eastern and western part of the town is now pressing upon us the necessity of active and solid work. In the next year two houses of worship must be built, and a suitable man must give half his time to this field."

With implicit confidence in Brother Durham's farsightedness, honest judgment, common sense, and his Christianity, the Brethren always being willing to accede to his recommendations in all

Obligation
Mary A Brown
To
J. H. Wyatt

This Obligation entered into this day of August 1887
between Mary A Brown of the first part & J. H. Wyatt of the
second part witnesseth That the said party of the first
part for and in consideration of his desire to promote
the Christian religion & for other good and sufficient
consideration & for one dollar in hand paid, both have by
agree to convey to the said J. H. Wyatt & others trustees
aforesaid for their use and the use of their successors in
office, the following parcel of land in Durham County
situated in Little Vesant of Brown Township and bounded
as follows: Beginning at an iron stake on the Western
Side South east corner of a lot sold by the Durham
Land & Mining Company to Jackson Kennedy running
Thence with his line North 18½° west one chain 08 links to
a stake & Elbs Corner Thence with his line south 71½° west
81 links to a stake Thence South 25° west one chain
+ 60 links to a stake in OR Pearsons line Thence with his
line North 65½° west 42 links to the beginning containing
.7763 of an acre: to have & to hold to them & their successors
in office and to their witness forever.
Signed & sealed the day and year first above written
Witness
W. J. Wyatt

Mary A Brown (Seal)

North Carolina
Durham County

The due execution of the foregoing
agreement was this day proven before me by
the oath and acknowledgment of J. H. Wyatt the
subscribing witness thereto & let the said instrument
with this certificate be registered this the 14th day
of Nov. 1887

N C Mangum
C.S.C.

Filed for record this Nov. 14th 1887 at 3.45 o'clock
P.M. & registered in the Office of the Register of
Deeds for Durham County in Book 9 H Deeds on
page 340 Nov. 20th 1887

Marshall Lumsden
Register of Deeds

his reports readily subscribed $625.00 for the building of these houses—Brother Durham's church subscribing $200.00 of this amount. His motto was: "Brethren, let's do," not "You do."

Prior to the purchase of the old wooden frame structure from the First Presbyterian Church of Durham, which had been moved from the corner of Main and Roxboro Streets, and which later became known as the Third Baptist Church, we learn that there had been for more than three years, a Sunday School and Prayer Meetings being led by members of the First Baptist Church of Durham in an old school building known as Oak Grove School. This building was across the railroad, south of our present church building and was situated in an oak grove. The road that ran to this building was called the Oak Grove road. It was situated on a parcel of land that was later developed and became a part of the housing development of Durham Cotton Manufacturing Company, for the housing of their employees.

We have no complete record as to how many of the people of East Durham attended this Sunday School and Prayer Meetings, but from what records we have and the information given to us, we assume that there was sufficient interest to warrant the need for a church building in this vicinity.

Because of her love for God and a great desire to serve Him, in August 1889, Mrs. Mary A. Wrenn deeded a tract of land to the following trustees of the First Baptist Church to be used for the erection of what became the Third Baptist Church: Thomas J. Rigsbee, T. S. Christian, S. T. Morgan, O. B. Foushee, and H. D. Markham. This land was the ground on which our present building stands.

The deed is found in Book 9, page 520 in the Durham County Register of Deeds office and has been reproduced here. This was the beginning of the Third Baptist Church, or what we now know as Angier Avenue Baptist Church.

The Church was officially organized on December 1, 1889, with a council consisting of the Pastor of First Baptist Church,



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS—APPROXIMATELY 1906

Brother J. L. White; Brother J. J. Lansdell, a retired Baptist minister; Brother C. A. Woodson, a missionary; and the following deacons of the Church: Brethren W. H. Holloway, J. L. Markham, J. M. Whitted, R. T. Howerton, Sr., P. Cook, J. M. Baucom and J. V. Rigsbee. Brother Lansdell was elected chairman and Brother Woodson secretary of the meeting. Prayer was offered, Brother White leading.

The following Covenant and Statement of Doctrine were read by the clerk and being approved by the brethren and sisters before whom it was read, it was ordered to be recorded on the Church Book as the Covenant and Statement of Doctrine of the Third Baptist Church.

Covenant

Having been, as we trust, brought by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ and to give ourselves wholly to Him, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other, to walk together in Him with brotherly love to His glory as our common Lord.

We do therefore in His strength engage; that we will exercise a Christian care and watchfulness and faithfully warn, exhort and admonish each other as occasion may require.

That we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together but will uphold the public worship of God and the ordinances of His house.

That we will not omit Closet and Family religion at home nor neglect the great duty of religiously training our children and those under our care for the service of Christ and the enjoyment of Heaven.

That as we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, we will seek divine aid; to enable us to deny ungodliness and every worldly lust and to walk circumspectly in the world that we may win the souls of men.

That we will cheerfully contribute of our means according as God has prospered us, for the maintenance of a faithful and

Former Pastors



J. F. MacDuffie
1890-1892

Picture
Not
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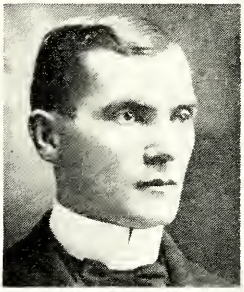
C. W. Blanchard
1892-1894



O. C. Horton
1895-1899



J. C. Owen
1899



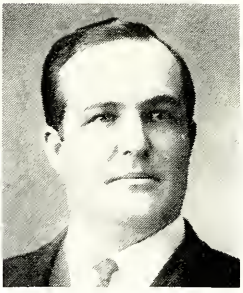
W. F. Fry
1899-1902



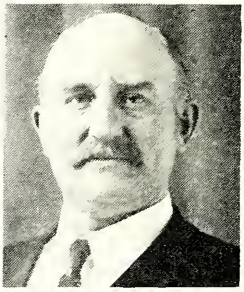
J. O. Alderman
1903-1905



J. W. Downey
1905-1909



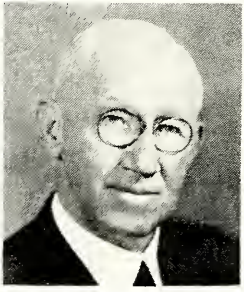
M. P. Davis
1910-1913



Q. C. Davis
1914-1918



H. F. Brinson
1919-1925



W. G. Hall
1925-1943

evangelical ministry among us for the support of the poor and to spread the Gospel over the earth.

That we will in all conditions ever till death, strive to live to the glory of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

And may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do His will, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Statement of Doctrine

1. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired that it is our all sufficient and infallible guide and that it is the Supreme Standard of appeal by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

2. The True God.

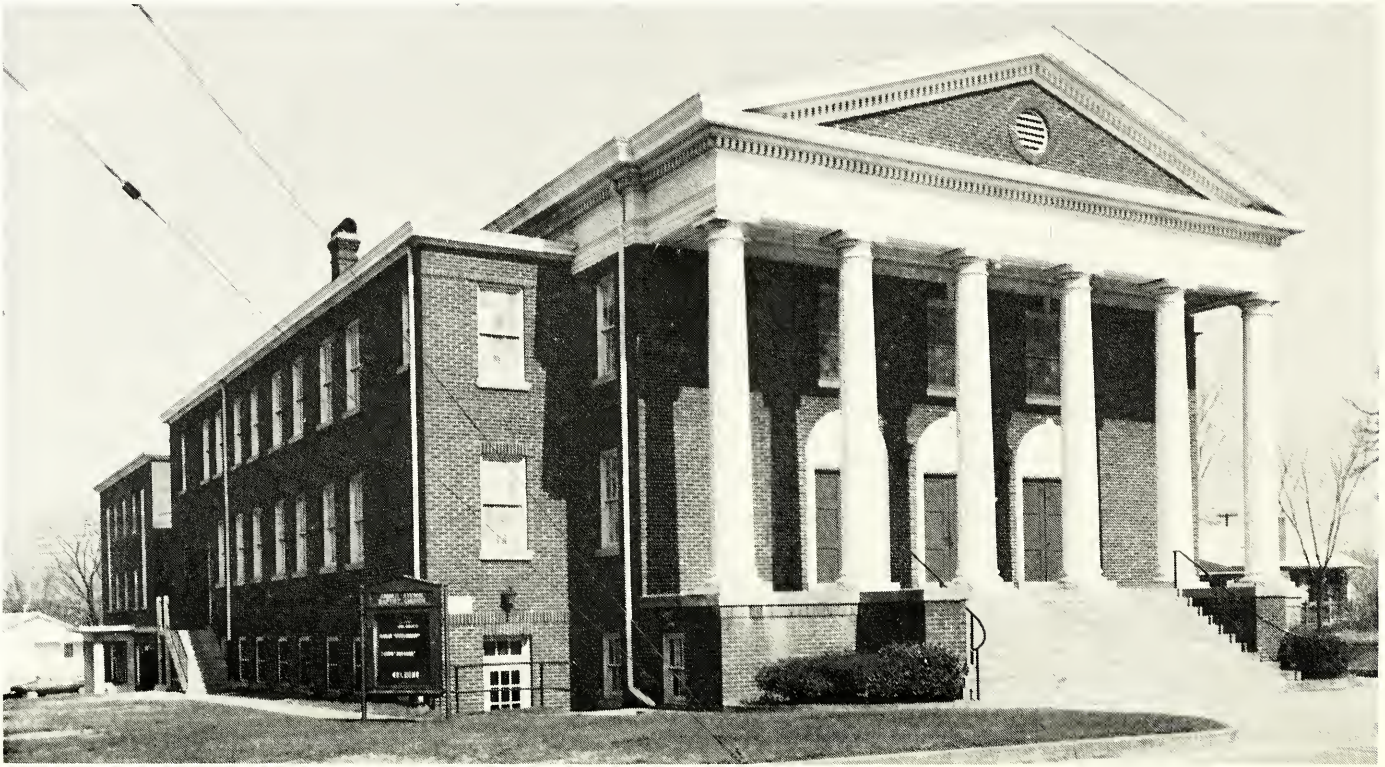
We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one and only one living and true God, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth and that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

3. The Fall of Man.

We believe the Scriptures teach that man was created in holiness under the law of his maker, but by personal transgression fell from his holy and happy state in consequence of which all mankind are now in their natural state sinners, not by constraint but by choice devoid of the holiness required by Divine Law and hence under condemnation of external ruin without defense and excuse.

4. The Way of Salvation.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of Grace through the mediatorial office of the Son of God,



FRONT VIEW OF CHURCH FROM ANGIER AVENUE

State Library Of North Carolina
Raleigh, N.C.

who by the appointment of the Father took upon Him our nature yet without sin, honored the Divine law by His personal obedience and by His death made full atonement for our sin; in that having risen from the dead and ascended to Heaven He is in every way suited to be the Saviour of those who trust in Him for salvation.

5. Justification.

We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to those that believe in Him is justification. That justification includes the pardon of sin, that it is bestowed not in consideration for any works of righteousness that we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, by virtue of which faith in Christ's righteousness is freely imputed to us by His Father.

6. Regeneration.

We believe the Scriptures teach that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again, which is effected by God's spirit and its proper evidence appears in the life and conduct of those who have passed from death unto life.

7. Repentance and Faith.

We believe the Scriptures teach that repentance and faith are sacred duties and also inseparable graces wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God, whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with sincere confession of; and contrition for sin; at the same time heartily receiving Christ as our Saviour.

8. God's Purpose of Grace.

We believe the Scriptures teach that election is that act of the Godhead which shows God's purpose to save His people that being consistent with the free agency of man it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; and notwithstanding God's purpose to save the people "Chosen of the Lord" it is our duty to go into all the world and preach the Gospel.



BOARD OF DEACONS—1925

Front Row, left to right: J. Frank Adams, W. B. Fonville, Clyde Steele, Rev. W. G. Hall, Fred Crutchfield, W. E. Young, S. A. Maynard, W. E. Stanley. *Back Row:* Joe Peed, Walter Williams, Clyde Horton, John Cheek, Ed Kerr, J. D. Gooch, C. L. Upchurch.

9. Sanctification.

We believe the Scriptures teach that Sanctification is that process of Grace by which in connection with regeneration man is more fully prepared for his heavenly state, and not complete until we stand glorified in His presence.

10. Perseverance of the Saints.

We believe the Scriptures teach that all true believers will persevere unto the end as they are kept by the power of God unto Salvation.

11. The Law and the Gospel.

We believe that the law is the expression of God's purity that its claims are very high beyond the reach of unregenerated man that Christ alone met perfectly all of its requirements and it is the province of the Gospel to proclaim the glad news that Christ hath done for us what we were unable to do for ourselves.

12. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe that Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to show faith in a solemn and beautiful emblem of our Lord Jesus Christ and also our death to the old life and resurrection to the new.

* * * *

Following the reading of the covenant and doctrine, the following applicants from the First Baptist Church and other Baptist Churches endorsed the covenant and doctrines as read and were accepted into membership: J. W. Ausley, J. H. Boone, J. I. Crutchfield, C. M. Crutchfield, W. R. Dupree, R. D. Hackney, J. W. Marshall, J. R. Suitt, J. B. Suitt, U. S. Suitt, W. H. Suitt, W. O. Stone, W. T. Sparrow, S. G. Tutor, W. J. Wyatt, Mrs. J. W. Ausley, Mrs. J. H. Boone, Catherine Beal, Fannie Burgess, Mrs. J. I. Crutchfield, Mrs. N. H. Crane, Mrs. L. R. Crane Hudson, Mrs. W. R. Dupree, Janie Gray, Angeline Horton, Sophrona Horton, Mrs. Edwin Johnson, Annie Johnson, Ella Johnson, Pattie Perry, Sarah E. Hackney, Annie E. Johnson, Emma Bright Booth, Mrs. W. T. Sparrow, Mrs. W. R. Suitt, Mrs. J. R. Suitt, Mrs. W. O. Stone, Nancy Stone, Sarah



East Durham Baptist Church Philathea Class—1912

F. Stone, Lunie E. Stone, Mrs. S. G. Tutor, Lorena Tutor Abernethy, Mary Wrenn, and G. A. Sparrow.

Having been duly organized, the following were elected as officers to serve the church: Brother J. I. Crutchfield, a deacon from the First Baptist Church, Brethren W. J. Wyatt and James W. Ausley to be ordained. Brother W. O. Stone was elected Church Clerk; Brother W. J. Wyatt, Treasurer; Brother J. I. Crutchfield, Superintendent of the Sunday School; and Brother W. T. Sparrow, Assistant Superintendent. Brother Lansdell extended the right hand of welcome and fellowship to Brother Wyatt representing the Church. Thus the Third Baptist Church began its service to God and to man. Brother C. A. Woodson was sent as a missionary to preach to these people.

At the time the above events took place, East Durham, as it is called, was not a part of the City of Durham. It was a separate and distinct town. It had its own squire and town officials. There were no paved streets, no electric lights, no running water, and the telephone was an instrument that few people knew anything about. The church was lighted with kerosene lamps that hung from either the ceiling or walls of the building. Coal-burning stoves heated the building. People depended on wells for their water supply, and many times during the hot weather of summer, water would often become a treasured item as the wells "ran dry."

It was not until April 1, 1925, that East Durham was incorporated and became a part of the City of Durham.

However, even though faced with these conditions and many other hardships, these good people were not deterred from their determination, and in the Associational report of 1889 they were given recognition for their good works.

It is quite interesting to read in the church minutes of how the membership "scoured" the bare wooden floors, how they cleaned and filled the lamps with oil, how they were called upon to do all the menial tasks that had to be done. We notice too, that at each Church Conference the roll of all male members was called and



East Durham Baptist Church Baraca Class—1912

that each man was held accountable if he failed to attend. We also learn that each member of the congregation was held accountable as to their personal conduct regarding idle gossip and such, and we have read accounts of where some were dropped from the roll because of their un-Christian behaviour.

We also noted that in those days it was customary for the pastor to extend his resignation at the end of each year and the church then had the opportunity of either accepting or rejecting it.

The church having no pastor, on January 1, 1890, in conference unanimously called J. F. MacDuffie to serve. Brother MacDuffie accepted the call and served nearly two years but resigned due to his "many obligations to country churches." In asking the church to accept his resignation he stated he was unable to give the church the amount of time it needed and demanded. During his ministry 84 were added to the church membership and a debt of $250.00 had been cancelled. He resigned in 1891. The amount collected for all objects during this time was $1,060.80.

It was during his pastorate that a bell was purchased and installed in the belfry. This bell was used to call members to the worship services until 1924, when it was sold to a local Negro Church. We understand that it is still in use today.

Also, during this period we learn that Sister Mary Wrenn donated an additional parcel of land to the church, which was later sold to enable the church to meet some of its financial obligations.

Following Brother MacDuffie's letter of resignation, the church in conference on Thursday night, September 3, 1891, appointed a committee to secure another pastor. This committee was asked to secure a pastor that would preach two Sundays, morning and evening, each month. Sometime later the committee reported back to the church and presented the names of Brother June Mallard and Brother J. M. White. Brother Mallard was elected but upon being contacted declined the call.

At a call conference October 4, 1891, Brother C. W. Blanchard was unanimously called. Brother Blanchard accepted the call,



East Durham Baptist Church Fidelis Class—1914

but upon contact he stated he would only be available to preach one Sunday morning and three Sunday evenings each month. The church agreed to this, accepting his offer and stipulated they would pay him a salary of $250.00 for the year 1892. During his ministry Brother A. J. Taylor was ordained to preach the Gospel. The total number added to the church during Brother Blanchard's pastorate was 130 and the total amount collected for all objects was $1,707.79. Brother Blanchard resigned as pastor in September, 1894.

On January 16, 1892, during Brother Blanchard's pastorate the church in conference authorized the organization of a Woman's Missionary Society. Also during this same month the membership authorized the addition of two Sunday School rooms at a cost of $300.00.

Following the resignation of Brother Blanchard, the church voted to call Brother O. C. Horton as pastor. Brother Horton accepted the call and began his service on January 1, 1895. Brother Horton served efficiently and satisfactorily until 1898. He was well loved and respected by all who knew him. He served as Moderator of the Mount Zion Association from 1895 until his death in 1899. During his pastorate the church received 128 members into fellowship and the total amount collected for all objects was $2,065.68.

At a church conference on February 27, 1895, following much discussion, with many names having been offered and rejected, the church voted to change the church name from "Third Baptist Church" to "East Durham Baptist Church." Also it was during this period of time that further additions were made to the Church building.

Following Brother Horton's years of service, Brother J. C. Owen was called to serve as pastor. Brother Owen served until June 1899 and resigned. The church regretted to lose this young man as he was greatly loved and respected by all. The number added to the church during Brother Owen's pastorate and the amount collected was reported under Brother Horton's and Brother Fry's (who succeeded Brother Owen) ministry to the Association.



SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS AND TEACHERS—1924

Since Brother Owen had resigned without finishing the year as was the original agreement, the church called Brother W. F. Fry to fill the unexpired term of Brother Owen. Brother Fry came to the church in July 1899. In November 1900 the church voted to call a full-time pastor for 1901, and in the December conference Brother Fry was asked to serve. Brother Fry being present agreed to serve indefinitely, with the understanding if either one became dissatisfied each would give the other a three months' notice. Brother Fry served the church until September 1, 1902, resigning to work for the Baptist Female Seminary. Brother Owen, during this time had gone to China as a missionary and had married; and he, being a member of this church, had baptized his wife in Japan and wanted her to be received into the fellowship of the church on his recommendation. She was received and he was notified of her reception by certificate.

During the ministry of Brother Fry a number of alterations had been made to the church. A Baptistry had been constructed, Sunday School rooms had been added, and the bell tower had been repaired. During his years the church had received 66 members to fellowship and the amount collected for all objects during this period was $3,924.84.

During his pastorate Brother Fry was instrumental in the church purchasing a lot on which to build a parsonage, the lot being purchased next to the church on the Driver Avenue side from Mr. J. V. Thompson, and the parsonage being completed in May 1903.

During the interval between September and December 1902, Brethren A. L. Betts and Hight C. Moore were unaminously called to the pastorate of the church, but each declined.

Brother J. O. Alderman was then called on December 28, 1902. Brother Alderman served until March 1905 when he resigned. During Brother Alderman's pastorate 88 were added to church membership and the amount collected for all objects was $3,121.74.



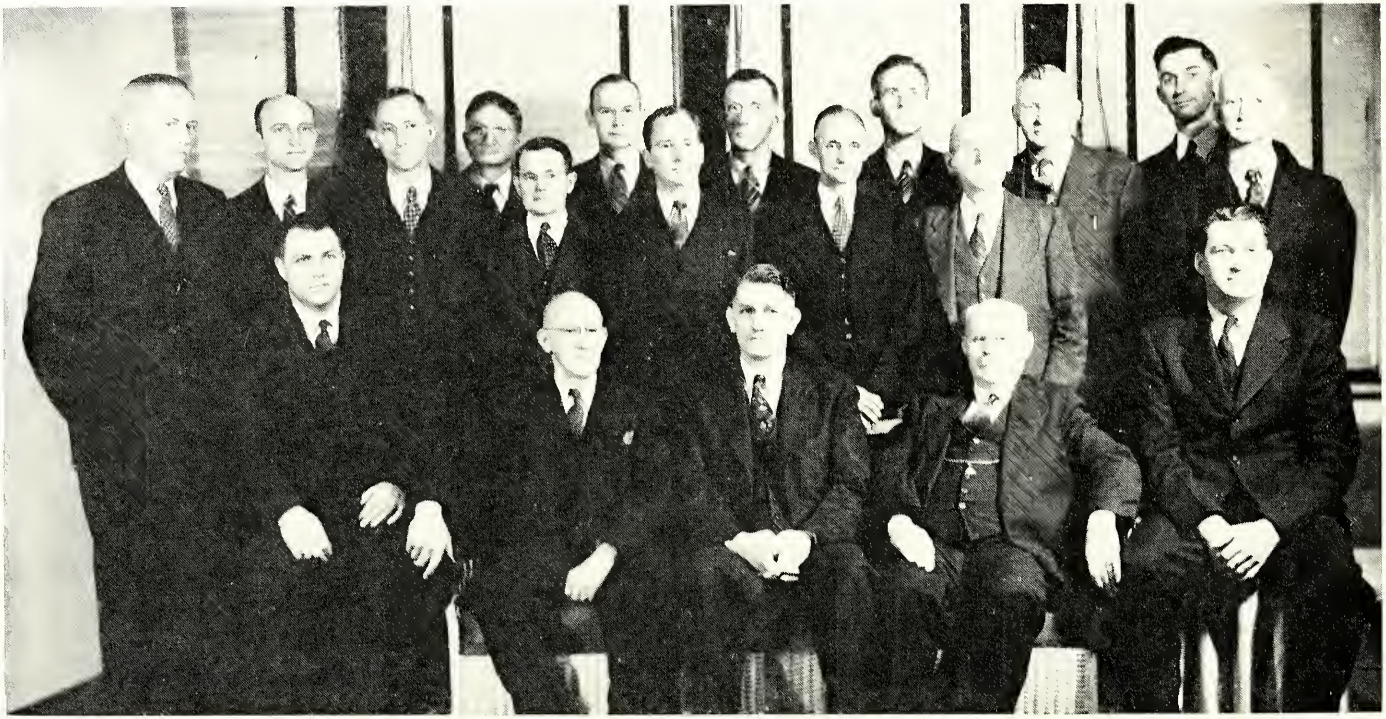
The Church at Wor

May



ip on Mother's Day

. 1964



BOARD OF DEACONS—1944

First Row, left to right: C. O. Couch, Rev. W. G. Hall, Rev. C. N. Royal, J. Frank Adams, L. L. Hodnett. *Second Row:* J. E. Watts, L. C. Goodwin, M. M. Mayton, W. J. Hackney. *Back Row:* S. M. Foster, Owen F. Jones, F. F. McClain, J. D. Gooch, D. F. Carlton, Floyd Christian, A. B. Carson, E. G. Carlton, E. M. Watkins, George Hayes.

Following Brother Alderman's resignation the church extended a call to Brother J. W. Downey. Brother Downey accepted the call and came in May 1905, serving until November 1909. During Brother Downey's pastorate two additions were made to the church. The parsonage was wired for electricity. The number received during Brother Downey's pastorate was 200 and the amount collected for all objects was $8,244.15.

Following the resignation of Brother Downey, Brother M. P. Davis was called. Brother Davis served from April 1910 until November 1, 1913. During Brother Davis' pastorate further additions were made to the church for use of the Baraca Class. Also during this time the parsonage had city water installed in it; prior to this installation well water was supplied from a well that was located near the parsonage. During his pastorate the church received 237 new members to fellowship and the amount received for all objects was $11,095.83.

Following the resignation of Brother M. P. Davis, Brother Q. C. Davis was called. Brother Q. C. Davis was not a stranger to our people as he had conducted two revival meetings for us. During his ministry Brother Clarence Ross was ordained to preach the Gospel. The first telephone was installed in the parsonage in 1914.

Brother Davis was with us at a time of deep distress. Our country was at war and a great number of our young men were on the battlefields; many of them in foreign lands. During this time the church bell was rung at 7 o'clock each evening in response to a proclamation of our Governor calling the people's attention to the importance of prayer. There was added to the church under Brother Davis' pastorate 256 members and the amount received for all objects was $14,111.83. Brother Davis resigned in November 1918.

In August 1918 the Philathea Sunday School Class presented our church with an individual communion service. Brother H. F. Brinson was then called and accepted the call and began his work here January 1, 1919.



BOARD OF DEACONS—1964

Seated, left to right: Allen Austin, Fred Rhodes, Ike Rowland, Vance Fisher—*Chairman,* Everett Freeman, Tom Lowe, Rev. C. N. Royal. *Standing:* Melvin Larsen, Vernon Porterfield, Paul Watkins, Reid Campbell, Malcolm Woodell, E. M. Watkins, Foy Couch, Harold Pollard, L. L. Husketh. *Absent when picture was taken,* Harvey Craig and John Rufus Ferrell.

Brother Brinson, it seems from the great progress he made in his work, was not afraid to undertake great things for God and His Church. At a church conference, January 28, 1920, he suggested a special meeting for February to consider plans for the erection of a new church building. He sent out three or four hundred letters, principally to members of the church regarding this plan. On Sunday morning, February 1, a Finance Committee consisting of five members was appointed, Brother J. N. Cheek serving as chairman. At the same time a building committee was appointed with the Pastor serving as chairman. On February 4, five others were added to the Finance Committee and pledges were taken amounting to $10,000.00 in pledges of cash, Government bonds, and stamps. The Finance Committee recommended an active campaign be put on and "as soon as $40,000.00 is raised in cash and pledges, we begin the building." This recommendation was accepted by the church.

On November 27, 1923, at a call conference, the Building Committee was instructed to sign a contract with Mr. T. W. Poe in the sum of $54,985.00 to construct the new church building by plans which had been adopted by the church on October 7.

On the morning of January 21, 1924, at 7:30, an appropriate service was held on the church property and the first ground was broken by two charter members, Mrs. Jane Gray and Mrs. F. D. Hudson, raising the first spades of dirt.

It had been decided to have the new church building face Angier Avenue instead of Driver, as the old church did, and to use the entire plot for the building, and the committee was instructed to sell the old building and parsonage to the best advantage. It was also decided to omit the bell tower and to sell the bell.

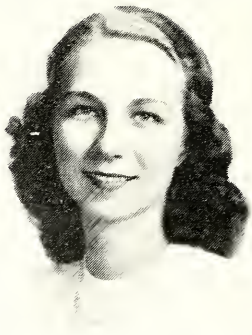
Arrangements had been made with the County Board of Education to use the East Durham School Building (Y. E. Smith School) for services, during the construction period. The final service in the old church was held on January 6, 1924.

On Thursday afternoon, April 10, 1924, after an appropriate service, with prayers that God be with the workers and that the

Former Educational Directors



ELLA SUE GRAVITTE
Oct. 1944-Aug. 1947



VIRGINIA WARREN
Sept. 1947-May 1949



VIRGINIA HIGHFILL
June 1949-June 1950



ROBERTA PERRY
June 1950-May 1955



GLADYS BATSON SMITH
June 1955-Aug. 1958



DORIS GREEN JONES
May 1960-Sept. 1963

church should ever be a blessing to mankind and a shining light for all the world to see, the cornerstone was laid.

On Sunday morning, September 7, 1924, the first service was held in the basement of the new building and on Sunday morning, November 16, 1924, the first service was held in the new sanctuary.

During the pastorate of Brother Brinson a Baptist Training Union was organized (Sunday, Februray 23, 1919) beginning with 20 members. Also during this period, on Sunday, December 18, 1924, Brother Z. B. Teel was ordained and set apart to the Gospel Ministry.

Brother Brinson resigned as pastor January 1925. He had received into the fellowship of the church 545, and the amount collected for all objects was $57,902.72.

Following Brother Brinson's resignation, Brother W. G. Hall was called in March 1925. Brother Hall served the church as Pastor until November 1943. Having served the church for nearly nineteen years, Brother Hall was forced to resign due to ill health. He had been named Pastor Emeritus and served in this capacity until his death in August 1950.

Brother Hall had served our church long and well, and had been held in high esteem by all who knew him. He was not only a wonderful pastor but also a good friend and adviser to all who called upon him. Brother Hall faced many problems during his ministry. Our people had gone through a great depression. Many of our people were finding it hard to feed their families, and many times Brother Hall sent groceries and fuel to the needy families using his own money. Also during the depression he voluntarily cut his salary to aid the church in coping with its many financial problems. Brother Hall, too, had watched as many of our young people marched off to fight in the second world war. Many of these young people he had baptized since coming to us.

Even though faced with many financial problems, the church had managed to pay off a huge debt and in December 1929 a lot



Ground Breaking Ceremony for New Educational Building—May 3, 1959

was purchased on Driver Avenue from Mr. and Mrs. J. R. King, Sr., on which our present parsonage was erected.

During this period the church had unaminously voted to change the name of the church from East Durham Baptist, to Angier Avenue Baptist. A Boy Scout Troop was organized with Brother L. C. Goodwin selected as Scoutmaster.

The beautiful river scene over our baptistry was donated by the late Mrs. W. E. Young in 1938 in memory of her late husband, Mr. Billy Young, as he was affectionately called. Mr. and Mrs. Young joined our church on February 2, 1890, and were active in all phases of its Christian work until their deaths. Mr. Young was for many years Chairman of the Board of Deacons, and had held many other offices of the church.

During Brother Hall's pastorate Brethren Walter Brown and Leo Bridgers were ordained into the ministry.

Brother Hall had preached at the morning worship hour on the Sunday preceding his death. He was faithful until the very end.

While serving as pastor, Brother Hall received into the church by baptism 877, by letter 519, by statement 60, by reinstatement 37. With the loss of 1,021 by death, letters, etc., the total gain in membership amounted to only 472, and monies collected for all objects amounted to $244,740.53.

Following the resignation of Brother Hall, our present pastor, Brother C. N. Royal, was called to the pastorate and began his work with us in January 1944.

When Brother Royal came to us our country was still at war and there was still a great number of our young people in foreign lands. However, during this period our pastor was mindful of these young people, even though they had never met, he was instrumental in organizing a correspondence committee to keep in touch with each one. Letters were mailed out to them periodically and with them went church bulletins keeping them informed of what our church was doing and encouraging them to "keep the faith."

Trustees



H. I. Parrish, E. G. Carlton and S. M. Foster

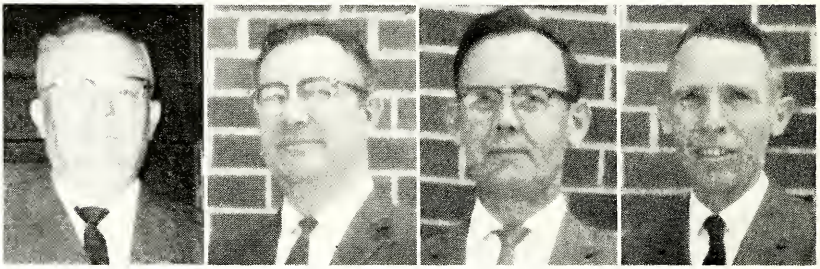


J. R. King

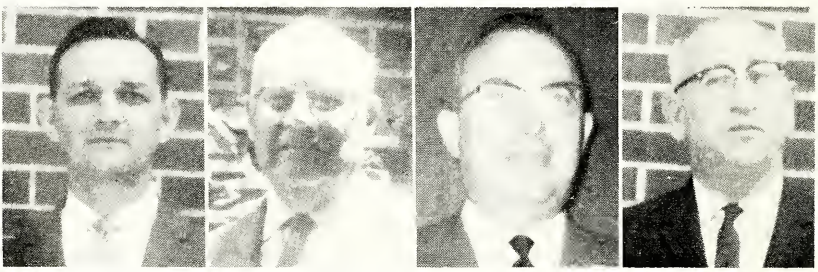


Odell Couch

Building Committee



LeRoy Clark, *Chairman*, Harvey Craig, Vance E. Fisher, W. T. Hall, Jr.



Lee R. Overman, H. I. Parrish, Bert R. Titus, M. S. Woodell

Brother Royal, too, like many of his predecessors, was a man not afraid to do great things for God and for the advancement of His Kingdom. Tireless in his efforts, our Church, under his pastorate, began to make great strides forward, as the minutes of each of the Associational meetings will attest.

The interior of our church took on a new look in 1950 when a new pipe organ was installed at a cost of $15,000.00, with the dedication services being held on April 30, 1950, at 7:30 P.M.

Also during this period our church had paid off a huge debt and had purchased additional land adjoining the church property in preparation for future expansion as our church was greatly handicapped because of its need for more Sunday School rooms.

A building committee had been appointed consisting of the following Brethren: LeRoy Clark as chairman and the following to assist him in this work, Harvey L. Craig, C. Odell Couch, Vance E. Fisher, W. T. Hall, Jr., Lee R. Overman, M. S. Woodell and Bert R. Titus under the pastor's supervision.

On Sunday morning, May 18, 1958, Brother Parrish as Chairman of the Building Fund Committee reported tentative plans had been made for the erection of an Educational Building, the plans having been thoroughly studied, and reported the estimated cost would be $190,000.00.

At a special called conference on Sunday morning, August 10, 1958, two recommendations were presented to the church for their approval.

1. That Mr. M. A. Ham be employed as architect for the new building.

2. That the aforementioned brethen be continued as the Building Committee. Both of these recommendations were unanimously accepted.

On Sunday morning, November 30, 1958, at a called meeting, the congregation was shown slide pictures of the plat and floor plan of the proposed Educational Building for their approval. Following this showing, a motion was made and duly seconded that the plans be accepted and the building committee proceed with the



View of Educational Building from Ashe Street

work. This was carried and the church trustees were instructed to sign the contract with Mr. Ham, the architect. These trustees were: E. G. Carlton, C. O. Couch, S. M. Foster, J. R. King, Sr., and H. I. Parrish.

Sunday morning, May 3, 1959, following the morning worship service, the congregation adjourned to the church lawn for the Ground Breaking program. Following a prayer of dedication by our pastor, the first spades of dirt were raised. Our new Building was dedicated and opened on Sunday, July 31, 1960.

During our present pastor's tenure here our church has moved forward in many, many ways. Our first Homecoming Service was held in June 1955 and has been a yearly service since, with the one exception of 1963. This service was dispensed with for that year in preparation of our seventy-fifth anniversary service this year.

Brother Royal celebrated his twentieth anniversary with our church on January 1. Mrs. Royal, our pastor's wife, has also been very active in our church. She has taught a class of young women, in addition to her work as public school teacher, and has taken active part in the Missionary Society and many other facets of our church.

Mr. and Mrs. Royal have a daughter, Ruth (Mrs. Jerry P. Poovey), and two grandchildren, Mark and Leah, who make their home in Morganton, North Carolina.

Brother Royal during his ministry with us has ordained Edward Brown, Billy Pickett, Horace McLaurin, and Gray Rogers into ministerial service.

During his ministry here he has baptized 861 and received by letters, statement and restoration 525. However, due to error in some of the earlier records and with exclusions by correction this error and losses by death, letters, etc., the increase in our church roll during this period is only 156, making a total of 1,386. The amount collected for all objects has been $889,488.23.

Our church recently purchased the land at 2107 Angier Avenue, joining the church property on the east and this has become the home of our Educational Director, Brother Grady Long and wife.



FIDELIS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

First Row, left to right: Mrs. Markham, Mrs. Carrie Green, Mrs. Elsie Terry, Mrs. Lollie Wiggins, Mrs. Lydia Fonville, Mrs. Louise Carson, Mrs. Lettie Bailey, Mrs. Sarah Alford—*Teacher*, Miss Aleane Green, Miss Lillian Stanley, Mrs. Thelma Aikens, Mrs. Sudie Fonville. *Second Row:* Mrs. Floyd Christian, Mrs. Lottie Moore, Mrs. Lois Cope, Miss Carrie Riddle, Mrs. Ila Parker, Mrs. Alma Leslie, Mrs. Rowena Crayton, Mrs. Maude Marshall, Mrs. Pearl Upchurch, Mrs. Pearl Rollins, Mrs. Lucille Hayes. *Third Row:* Mrs. McKinney, Mrs. G. G. Green, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Pearl Overton, Mrs. Parnell, Mrs. Alva Kerr, Mrs. Eva Blackburn, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. May, Mrs. Thelma Inscoe, Miss Ila House, Mrs. Lee Wiggs.



WORKERS' COUNCIL OF OFFICERS AND TEACHERS

Sunday School Officers and Teachers

General Officers

Rev. C. N. Royal
Pastor

Grady Long
Educational Director

W. T. Hall, Jr.
Superintendent

Tom Lowe
Associate Superintendent

Miss Irene Hall
Secretary

Miss Lucy Gray
Associate Secretary

Floyd Perry
Associate Secretary

Adult Department III

W. B. Fonville
Superintendent

Miss Ila House
Associate Superintendent

C. D. Green
Chorister

Mrs. C. D. Green
Pianist

Mrs. Louise Carson
Secretary

Floyd Christian
Associate Chorister

Mrs. Eunice Austin
Associate Pianist

Mrs. Dora Keith
Teacher

Owen Jones
Teacher

Mrs. Vivan Ray Harris
Associate Teacher

Rev. Leo Bridgers
Teacher

H. I. Parrish
Associate Teacher

Mrs. W. L. Alford
Teacher

Rufus Ferrell
Associate Teacher

Adult Department II

Miss Irene Hall
Acting Superintendent

Mrs. Eunice Austin
Pianist

Foy Crabtree
Chorister

Mrs. Eunice Austin
Secretary

Mrs. C. N. Royal
Teacher

Mrs. E. L. Abernathy
Teacher

Mrs. R. W. York
Teacher

Mrs. Marie Deal
Associate Teacher

Vance E. Fisher
Teacher

Preston Hall
Associate Teacher

Adult Department I

Mrs. Betty Stone
Superintendent

Mrs. Patsy Clark
Assoc. Superintendent, and Pianist

Reade Minor
Chorister

Mrs. Betty Stone
Secretary

Mrs. Etta Lowe
Teacher

Mrs. L. T. Bridgers
Teacher

Lee R. Overman
Teacher

Young Married People

Paul Watkins
Teacher

Mrs. Martha Rowland
Superintendent

Mrs. Carl Luquire
Associate Superintendent

Miss Joan Bridgers
Pianist



THE WOMAN'S BIBLE CLASS
(Formerly Philathea Class)

First Row, left to right: Owen F. Jones—*Teacher,* Mrs. Lula Hall, Mrs. Lillah Watts, Mrs. Ila McVey, Mrs. Evelyn Carmack, Mrs. Maude Green. *Second Row:* Mrs. J. H. Davie, Mrs. C. F. Byrd, Mrs. F. F. Saunders, Mrs. Lenna Sanders, Mrs. Lena Cheek, Mrs. Maggie Stone. *Third Row:* Miss Zora Herndon, Mrs. Viola Utley, Mrs. Frances Jones, Mrs. Joyce Nash, Mrs. Annie McLeod, Mrs. Emma Dodd.

First Row, left to right seated: Claiborne Ross, W. H. Sykes, Floyd, Christian, Bascom Bane, H. C. Goodwin, Floyd Perry. *Second Row:* J. E. Mincey, John Rufus Ferrell, J. R. King, U. C. McKinney, P. G. Buchanan, I. B. Fonville, J. B. Foreman, W. B. Fonville, Bob Carson. *Third Row:* A. C. Oakley, J. E. Tilley, Auburn Fowler, Tom Saunders, Colon Cates. *Fourth Row:* W. R. Goss, Fletcher McClain, Charlie Gurley, C. F. Byrd, George Green, Mr. Chambers, Joe Crutchfield, Carl Luquire, Z. O. Barbour, Vernon Porterfield, Roy O'Brient, E. A. Davis, Malcolm Woodell, Roy May, Charlie Guess. *Standing:* W. J. Stell, R. D. Wilson, Luther Cope, Hurley Parrish, Marvin Pope, J. G. Ferrell, Roy Fuquay, Marvin Watkins, Charles Sorrell, Delmar Watkins, C. F. Stell, Millard Barbee, Harold Estes, Earl Lanier, Ralph Ferrell, Clarence Fisher, Odell Pendergraft, A. B. Houston, Ed Gooch, John Crutchfield.



THE FELLOWSHIP CLASS
(Formerly Baraca Class)

Mrs. Carl Luquire
Secretary
Mrs. Lois Cannada
Teacher
Al Austin
Teacher
Mrs. Elizabeth Rogers
Teacher
Mrs. Mary Overman
Associate Teacher

INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT II

Leonard L. Husketh
Superintendent
Mrs. Lena Carpenter
Secretary
Mrs. E. M. Watkins
Teacher
I. F. Rowland
Teacher
Miss Doris Parnell
Teacher
Reid Campbell
Teacher

INTERMEDIATE DEPARTMENT I

Mrs. Hallie Craig
Superintendent
Mrs. Hilda Goodwin
Associate Superintendent
Miss Nina Boyd
Secretary
Mrs. Anita Smith
Teacher
Mrs. Jean Howerton
Teacher
Manley Johnson
Teacher
David Cope
Teacher
Mrs. David Cope
Teacher
Harvey Craig
Teacher

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT II

Mrs. Arlene Green
Superintendent
Mrs. Estene Larsen
Associate Superintendent
Mrs. Annie L. Wilson
Secretary
Mrs. Janet Shambley
Teacher
Mrs. Rosa Vickers
Teacher
Everett Gilmore
Teacher
Mrs. Nora Hockaday
Teacher
Miss Celia Watts
Teacher
Bill Goss
Teacher

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT I

Mrs. Betty Lawrence
Superintendent
Miss Carolyn Tippett
Pianist and Secretary
Mrs. M. H. Oakley
Teacher
Melvin Larsen
Teacher
Everett Green
Teacher
Mrs. Mary Teague
Teacher
Mrs. Vivian Harris
Associate Teacher
Clarence Tippett
Associate Teacher
Mrs. Donna Maynard
Teacher

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT III

Mrs. Joyce Davis
Superintendent
Miss Ruth Stanley
Worker
Mrs. Hattie Gulley
Worker
Mrs. Peggy Harris
Worker
Gene Harris
Worker



Training Union Leaders

Front Row, left to right: Mrs. Josephine Horne, Mrs. Bettie Stone, Mrs. Leo C. High, Mrs. Barbara Beckwith, Mrs. Rosa Vickers, Mrs. Grady Long, Miss Loma Copeland, Mrs. Leo Bridgers. *Second Row:* Leo C. High, Vance E. Fisher, W. T. Hall, Jr., Reid Minor, Lee Overman. *Third Row:* Everett Freeman, Calvin Holsclaw, Ike Rowland, Allen Austin, Rev. C. N. Royal and Rev. Grady Long.

Woman's Missionary Society Leaders

(All Leaders Not Available For Picture)

Front Row: Mrs. Frances Campbell, Mrs. Dorothy Womack, Mrs. Annie Rose Bridgers. *Second Row:* Mrs. Donna Maynard, Miss Ruth Stanley, Mrs. Martha Rowland.



Primary Department II

Miss Lillian Parrish
Superintendent
Mrs. Bessie Hicks
Secretary
Miss Mable Young
Worker
Mrs. Clarene Newton
Worker
Miss Mildred Seagroves
Worker
Mrs. Frances Shepherd
Worker

Primary Department I

Mrs. Judith Fowler
Superintendent
Mrs. Anne Rhodes
Secretary
Mrs. Lallah B. Avent
Worker
Mrs. Pearl Sears
Worker
Mrs. Ruth Sanders
Worker

Beginner Department II

Miss Marie Hamm
Superintendent
Mrs. A. C. Oakley
Worker
Mrs. John M. Smith
Worker

Beginner Department I

Mrs. Frances Campbell
Superintendent
Mrs. Dorothy Womack
Worker
Miss Loma Copeland
Worker

Nursery Department

Mrs. Wesley Stell
Superintendent Baby
Mrs. Irene Goss
Superintendent 2 Year
Mrs. Betty Brown
Worker
Mrs. T. E. Herndon
Worker
Mrs. Margaret Freeman
Superintendent 3 Year
Mrs. Meredith Sloan
Worker
Mrs. Helen Watkins
Secretary

Cradle Roll Department

Mrs. Nellie Crutchfield
Superintendent
Mrs. Harold Pollard
Associate Superintendent
Mrs. W. N. Daniel
Mrs. Elizabeth McGhee
Mrs. Wava Minor
Visitors

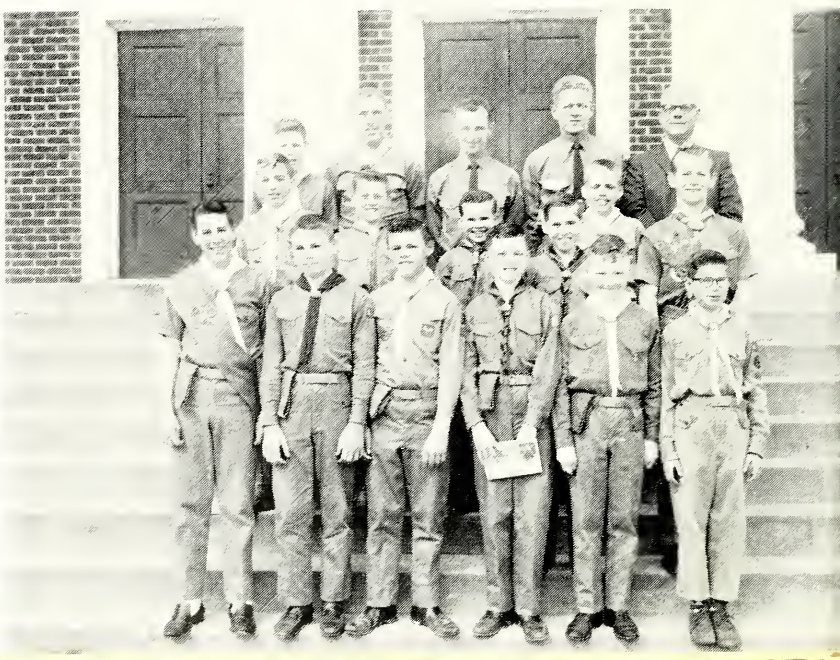
Extension Department

Mrs. Annie McLeod
Superintendent
Miss Loma Copeland
Secretary
Mrs. I. B. Fonville
Mrs. Emma Dodd
Mrs. Lettie Bailey
Mrs. Katherine Painter
Mrs. Viola Utley
Mrs. C. D. Green
Mrs. Mollie Sharpe
Mrs. Ann High
Visitors



THE PARSONAGE

First Row, left to right: Marvin Fisher, Steve Crabtree, Greg Robbins, Dennis Goss, Michael Herndon, Lewis Ward. *Second Row:* Douglas Critcher, Robert Johnson, Ronnie Metcalf, Chippie Cates, Rickey Overman, Donald Elliott. *Third Row:* Rickie Jackson, Edward Jackson—*Scout Master,* Ray Terry, Joe White, Chester Gardner.



BOY SCOUT TROOP NO. 485

Homecoming Committee

Vernon Porterfield
Chairman

Tom Lowe

J. R. Ferrell

A. A. Fowler

E. M. Watkins

Bill Goss

L. C. Goodwin

Wesley Stell

Everett Green

Delmar Watkins

Harvey Craig

Ike Rowland

Foy Couch

Floyd Perry

Mack Woodell

Fred Rhodes

Eleanor Luquire

Owen Jones

Dorothy Abernathy

Lois Cannada

Helen Watkins

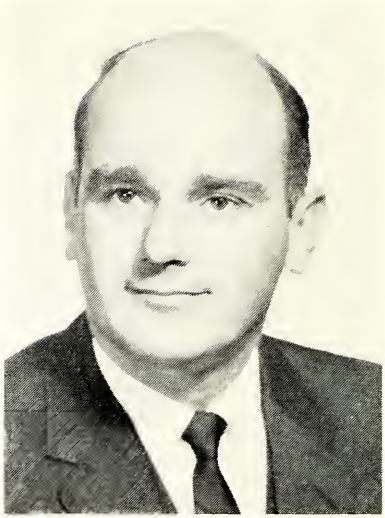
Mrs. W. L. Alford

Mrs. Annie Rose Bridgers

Mrs. R. W. York



BERT R. TITUS
Treasurer Building Fund



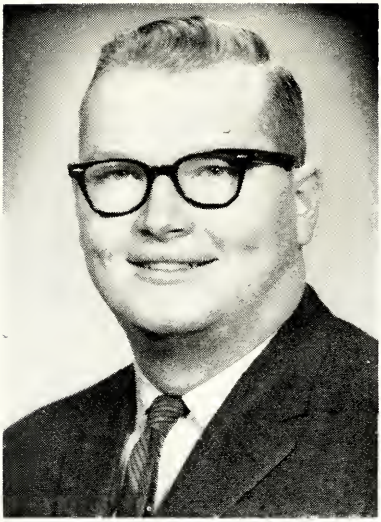
FRED RHODES
Church Treasurer



MRS. I. F. ROWLAND
Church Clerk



W. T. HALL, JR.
Sunday School Superintendent



REV. C. GRADY LONG
Educational Director



MRS. EUNICE AUSTIN
Church Secretary



MRS. LELIA P. SHARPE
Choir Director



MRS. EVELYN CULTON
Organist



SENIOR CHOIR

First Row: Janie Husketh, Barbara Beckwith, Isla Pollard, Margaret Woods, Evelyn Culton, Holt Sharpe, Inez Ferguson, Donna Maynard, Karen Titus. *Second Row:* Celia Watts, Ollie Watkins, Brenda Bruce, Betty Lawrence, Jean Howerton, Pearl Sears, Carollynn Rowland, Sybil Beck, Virginia Titus. *Third Row:* Beal Rowland, Vivian Harris, Foy Couch, Harold Pollard, Vance Fisher, Jr., Foy Crabtree, Robert Odom, Malcolm Woodell. *Absent:* Sarah Alford, Philip Alford.



INTERMEDIATE CHOIR

First Row: Carol Green, Carol Sloan, Diane High, Linda Sumner, Tommy Austin. *Second Row:* Bonnie Woodell, Brenda Holsclaw, Wanda Hamilton, Susan Shepherd, Gray Sumner, Sue Woodell. *Third Row:* Lonnie Crabtree, Lee Ann Overman, Linda Holsclaw, Marvin Fisher, Martha Rogers, Patricia Davis, Barbara Gayle Fowler, Faye Sumner, Holt Sharpe.



JUNIOR CHOIR

First Row: Sandra Overman, Susan Pollard, Casandra Rowland, Philip Hall, Beth Pollard, Connie Watkins, Chuck George, Douglas Honeycutt, Karen Watkins, Nan LaPlant, Ruth George. *Second Row:* Carolyn Stone, Dianne Buchanan, Sandy Austin, Kay Campbell, Marilyn Holsclaw, Pam Harris, Sheila Lawrence, Jane Holsclaw, Laura Noell, Allen Austin, Jr., Tommy O'Neal, Ann Sloan. *Third Row:* Patsy Dennis, Debbie Reeves, Susan Shipp, Susan Buchanan, Marsha LaPlant, Mary Beth Womack, Ann Campbell, Belinda Watkins, Brenda Kerr, Patricia Horne.

CONCLUSION



ON THE FOREGOING PAGES we have shown a reproduction of the original deed and the transfer of land to the trustees of the First Baptist Church whereupon Mrs. Mary A. Wrenn conveyed this land that a church could be erected. This church was organized and is now in its seventy-fifth year, having been organized in 1889. Our present church stands on this same plot of ground. However, quite a number of changes have taken place during these seventy-five years.

Since that day in December, 1889, this church has held a high place in our community, our city and our State. It has been a shining light for God and for His Son, Jesus Christ. From its early membership of 44 faithful, loyal souls, it has grown until today its membership roll numbers 1,386 followers of Christ.

We have tried to bring to you a true picture of the past history of our church up to and including the present moment. Unfortunately, however, there has been in many instances, little to go on. Quite a large number of our older records were lost, but with the aid of many of our older people, too numerous to mention by name, and by research through old newspapers, personal knowledge and by whatever means available we have given you as complete and accurate a history as our limited findings could bring to you.

May this history be an inspiration to each of us, and may we renew our Faith in God and strive to carry on for Christ and to aid in every possible way to carry His message to all. May our church continue to grow in Grace and Knowledge and ever become a greater light to shine for Him who came and gave Himself to die on the Cross of Calvary that all men might come to know God.

Owen F. Jones

Church Historian

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